Smuggling of tigers

3431. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has been involved in smuggling of tigers in India;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether India has raised this issue with China; and

(d) if so, the response of China thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Amendments to Wildlife Protection Act

3432. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring in amendments to the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 to prevent incidents of poaching and poisoning of remaining population of tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the tiger reserves in the country are in precarious condition and thereby affecting tigers' and leopards' population;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Central Government has discussed the matter with the State Governments and proposes to provide special assistance for proper maintenance of tiger reserves; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has already been amended in 2006 to strengthen tiger conservation and antipoaching measures. Based on the said enabling provisions, the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau have been operationalised with effect from 4.9.2006 and 6.6.2007 respectively.

(c) to (e) The tiger reserves have been assessed by a panel of independent experts using 45 parameters based on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) criteria, as adapted to Indian conditions, which was subjected to peer review by the IUCN. Both the assessment and peer review have been placed in both Houses of the Parliament in the Monsoon Session of 2006. Recently (2009), a rapid assessment of tiger reserves has been done.

Out of 38 tiger reserves, 13 are good, 9 are satisfactory and 16 are in a poor status, which include 7 reserves affected by extremist disturbances. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) linked to fund flows has been executed with tiger States to strengthen tiger conservation. The milestone initiatives taken for conservation of tiger and the central assistance provided to tiger reserves during the last three years and the current year are given in the Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

Statement-I

Milestone initiatives (including the recent) taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.

2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/ home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter-alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

5. Constitution of a multi-disciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Declaration of eight new Tiger Reserves and in-principle approval accorded for creation of four new Reserves, namely Sahyadri in Maharashtra, Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in M.P. and Sunabeda in Orissa.

7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter-alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.

9. An area of 29284.76 sq. km. has been notified by 15 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). Two tiger States (Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) have taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitats (2765.04 sq.km,). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified/notified the core/critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).

Financial steps

10. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

11. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

12. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

13. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

14. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat has issued a notification to Parties to submit reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20.10.2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.).

Reintroduction of Tigers

15. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers/tigresses have been done.

16. Special advisories issued for in-situ build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

17. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *inter-alia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.

18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, action has been taken for an wildlife crime data base, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plna has been evolved.

Recent Initiatives

19. Implementation a tripartite MOU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.

20. Revised the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) guidelines to involve local people Van Gujjars and others in field protection.

21. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done (12 good, 9 satisfactory and 16 poor).

22. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.

23. All India meeting of Field Directors convenced on 25 and 26 July, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests for reviewing the status of field protection and related issues in tiger reserves.

24. Chief Ministers of tiger States addressed at the level of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on urgent issues, viz. implementation of the tripartite MoU, creation of the Tiger Conservation Foundation, stepping up protection etc.

25. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.

26. Field visits to Bhadra, Corbett, Sariska and Ranthambhore made by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests to review the initiatives and problems relating to tiger conservation.

27. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection.

28. Advisory issued for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.

29. Core Committee involving outside experts constituted for overseeing the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.

30. Report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted for looking into the local extinction of tiger in the Panna Tiger Reserve sent to the State (Madhya Pradesh) for the needful action.

31. Issue of tiger farming and trafficking of tiger body parts discussed at the level of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests with the Chinese Authorities.

32. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act to ensure effective conservation.

33. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.

34. Decision taken to host the World Tiger Summit in October-November, 2010.

Statement-II

Central Assistance provided to tiger States during the last three years and the current financial year

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	Release 2006-07	Release 2007-08	Release 2008-09	Release 2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Achanakmar	-	-	68.55	1193.5000
2.	Anamalai	-	-	224.885	12.8300
3.	Bandhavgarh	185.99	499.46185	1814.94857	159.9600
4.	Bandipur	242.21	974.529	114.565	120.5920
5.	Bhadra	44.067	185.18591	158.06684	128.0870
6.	Buxa	69.22833	106.79414	67.64	38.5800
7.	Corbett	192.78	202.005	462.85	187.6550
8.	Dampa	115.16	82.90	241.45	128.0000
9.	Dandeli-Anshi	183.265	-	226.36	105.5000
10.	Dudhwa	10.00	134.89	392.513	316.0000
11.	Indravati	108.535	35.225	49.36966	42.1500
12.	Kalakad Mundanthurai	243.259	45.40	222.371	101.1300
13.	Kanha	30.00	270.42228	1638.28344	277.0600
14.	Kaziranga	-	-	306.7915	-
15.	Manas	50.70	60.00	740.7945	-
16.	Melghat	71.462	138.365	180.939	155.1850
17.	Mudumalai	21.10	-	243.55	21.6500
18.	Nagarahole	-	-	190.847	83.3760
19.	Nagarjunsagar	35.875	73.9175	56.983	94.9100

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Namdapha	35.875	30.00	136.852	-
21.	Nameri	15.00	35.614	44.793	19.7700
22.	Pakke	-	80.2542	109.31895	48.8600
23.	Palamau	18.00	45.16	115.3765	110.7350
24.	Panna	287.50	1822.849	2108.938	175.8950
25.	Parambikulam	-	-	96.74	97.0000
26.	Pench (MP)	47.80	220.846	169.09075	158.3200
27.	Pench (Mah.)	104.108	71.50407	71.18	74.7800
28.	Periyar	63.75	153.2449	170.35	151.8000
29.	Ranthambore	225.92	223.45	808.86	10560.0000
30.	Sanjay-Dubri	-	-	74.506	145.8400
31.	Sariska	69.00	187.23	1900.09	132.8900
32.	Satkosia	-	-	75.00	127.7300
33.	Satpura	47.90	162.362	1192.775	467.3710
34.	Similipal	32.88	43.28	550.99	42.3500
35.	Sunderban	138.33	201.88	160.75436	259.9700
36,	Tadoba-Andheri	446.22	85.85	159.00561	131.8200
37.	Udanti-Sitanadi	-	-	51.95	103.0500
38.	Valmiki	25.00	98.3205	49.6731*	8.0000
	TOTAL	2879.895	6270.94035	15448.00078	15982.35

* With held for want of MoU

Pollution in Yamuna

3433. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Yamuna Action Plan for the abatement of pollution in river Yamuna has succeeded in its objectives and if not, by when it would be achieved;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred;

(c) whether Delhi accounts for about 79 per cent of total wastewater generated from major towns located along the banks of river Yamuna;

(d) whether groundwater quality monitored by CPCB at selected locations of Delhi area indicates that water was not potable; and

(e) whether Yamuna is among the most polluted rivers of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for abatement of pollution in river Yamuna is being implemented by the Central and State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). YAP, Phase-I was